CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A bed rail comprising:

a support portion joined to a rail portion;

the support portion being adjustable to grip a member such as a mattress member;

locking means for releaseably locking the support portion at a desired gripping position.

2. The bed rail of claim 1 wherein said rail portion is pivotally coupled to said support portion and is moveable between an upright position and a released position wherein the rail portion is pivoted toward a sidewall of the mattress member.

3. The bed rail of claim 2 further comprising

second releasable locking means for locking the rail portion to said support portion at at least the upright position.

4. The bed rail of claim 1 wherein said rail portion has a substantially rectangular-shaped frame; and

a lightweight rugged net-like member joined to said frame and spanning a hollow region surrounded by said frame.

5. The bed rail of claim 4 wherein said net-like member has elongated sleeves for slideably receiving frame members of said frame to secure the net-like member to the frame.

6. The bed rail of claim 4 wherein said net-like member is a lightweight netting.

7. The bed rail of claim 4 wherein the net-like member is provided with a pocket provided for storage purposes.

8. The bed rail of claim 1 wherein said support portion is comprised of upper and lower L-shaped bracket pairs;

one arm of each of the upper pair of L-shaped brackets being joined to said rail portion;

elongated members, each having one end joined to the remaining arm of each of said upper L-shaped brackets and having a lower end slideably engaging one hollow arm of an associated one of the lower L-shaped brackets;

said releasable locking means locking each elongated member to one of the lower L-shaped brackets; and

a pair of base members, each coupled to one of the lower L-shaped brackets.

9. The bed rail of claim 8 wherein the base members are pivotally coupled to the lower L shaped brackets by a pivot pin.

10. The bed rail of claim 8 wherein said elongated member has a plurality of openings arranged at spaced intervals along one surface thereof;

wherein said releasable locking means is normally biased in a direction toward said openings and enters one of said openings when aligned therewith; and

wherein said releasable locking means is moveable to a releasing position displaced from said openings to enable sliding movement of the elongated member relative to the lower L-shaped bracket.

11. The bed rail of claim 8 wherein each of said elongated members is slidably inserted into a hollow interior of an associated one of said arms of said lower L-shaped bracket.

12. The bedrail of claim 8 wherein each of said elongated members and associated said lower L-shaped brackets is slidably received by the other of said elongated members and an associated arm of said lower L-shaped brackets.

13. The bed rail of claim 8 wherein each base member has a surface for engaging in underside of a mattress, said surface having at least one portion thereof which is provided with a surface configuration that promotes gripping between the mattress and the base member.

14. The bed rail of claim 8 wherein an underside of each of said upper L-shaped brackets has a surface for engaging a mattress, said surface having at least one portion thereof that is provided with a surface configuration that promotes gripping between the mattress and the base member.

15. The bed rail of claim 14 wherein the surface configuration is a saw-toothed configuration.

16. The bed rail of claim 1 wherein said rail portion is selectively extendible and collapsible.

17. The bed rail of claim 16 wherein said rail portion includes a frame assembly comprised of frame halves that are movable relative to one another to selectively extend and collapse said frame.

18. The bed rail of claim 17 wherein a pair of free ends of one of said frame halves is telescopingly received within the hollow interiors of a pair of free ends of another one of said frame halves.

19. The bed rail of claim 18 wherein one of said free ends are hollow tubular shaped members.

20. The bed rail of claim 1 further comprising retaining means releasably coupled to said support portion and having at least one retaining plate engaging the mattress member along one side that is opposite another side engaged by said support portion, and

a web extending beneath the mattress member for retaining the bed rail against the mattress member.

21. The bed rail of claim 20 wherein said retaining plate comprises a flat rigid member adapted to rest against said one side of the mattress member and being coupled to one end of said web, another end of said web being coupled to said support portion.

22. The bed rail of claim 21 wherein said web is an elongated fabric web.

23. The bed rail of claim 22 wherein said web is releasably coupled to said support portion by releasable locking means.

24. The bed rail of claim 8 wherein said base members are each pivotable coupled to one of said lower brackets and are movable between an extended position for placement beneath a mattress member and a collapsible position with a free end of the base members pivoted toward said upper L-shaped brackets.

25. A bed rail comprising a support portion and a rail portion secured to the support portion;

the support portion having a pair of members being provided for positioning beneath a mattress;

said rail portion being pivotally coupled to said support portion and moveable between an upright position and a released position wherein the rail portion is pivoted downwardly toward a sidewall of the mattress to facilitate climbing upon and climbing off of the mattress.

26. The bed rail of claim 25 further comprising releasable locking means for locking the rail portion to the support portion in the upright position.

27. The bed rail of claim 26 wherein the releasable locking means includes a push button for unlocking the releasable locking means.

28. A bed rail comprising:

a support portion having an upper and lower generally parallel arms separated by a vertical member that adjust to define the distance between them, with the lower arm being a greater length than the upper arm;

the vertical member including an locking member that holds the upper and lower arms at the defined distance; and

a rail portion of variable area that is pivotally attached to the upper parallel arm for selection between an engaged position and a disengaged position and means for fixing the rail portion in the engaged position.